Coal Research Work at RRL, Jorhat

3661. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what si the difficulty to bring the research work on coal in North East under the RRL at Jorhat; and

(b) whetehr the Minsitry would develop the RRL at Jorhat further for different research works, including the coal research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) There are specialised CSIR R&D laboratories for providing S&T development of specific commodities *viz.* Central Drug Reseach Institute (Drugs & pharmaceuticals); Central Food Technological Research Institute (Food); Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (Glass & Ceramics); Central Leather Research Institute (Leather); Central Fuel Research Institute (Coal); Indian Institute of Petroleum (Petroleum) etc. Over the years the laboratories have developed excellence in R&D pertaining to their specialization. This does not preclude other R&D establishments from seeking/undertaking R&D of value under locale-specific conditions to complement the efforts of the specialised laboratories. Accordingly, the RRL at Jorhat is interacting with the CFRI for specific R&D programmes on coal of value to the North East. CSIR has been generously supporting R&D at RRL Jorhat including that on coal, further support is to be programme based.

National Youth Policy

3662. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a National Youth Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting of the representatives of Youth Organisations has been convened to discuss the Youth Policy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The Government had formulated a National youth Policy in 1988. In the light of the changes that have taken place and the experience gained, the Ministry have formualted a draft New National Youth Policy in consultation with Universities, Non- Government Organisations, State Governments, Central Government Ministries/Departments, Youth Wings of Political Parties and Youth Organisations.

The draft Policy prroposes to lower the defining age of youth from 15-35 to 13.35 years. The thrust areas of the Policy will be:—

(i) Youth Empowerment;

(ii) Gender Justice;

(iii) Inter-Sectoral Approach; and

(iv) Information and Research Network.

The Policy also recognizes the following sectors as the key sectors of concern for youth:—

1. Education;

2. Training and Employment;

3. Health;

4. Environment;

5. Sports and Recreation;

6. Art and Culture;

7. Science and Technology;

8. Civics and Citizenship

(d) Does not arise.

Selection of Players for Afro-Asian Games

3663. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process for selection of athlete and other players for the coming Afro-Asian Games in New Delhi has been started;